

Resolution calling on the Wake county board of commissioners to Act and stop delaying consideration of the Wake County Transit plan

- Whereas Wake county has a long history of planning for future needs of this great county, and
- Whereas Wake county has been identified as one of the fastest growing regions of the nation, predicted to reach 1 million people next year and 1.5 million by 2035, and,
- Whereas For over a decade Wake county has formed broad based community panels and task forces to study the needs of the county, and without exception all of those studies and panels were made up of Republicans, Democrats and independents who set politics aside to come together and prepare and to plan for ways to protect our quality of life, while the population of our county is expected to double, all of these reports call for the county to implement a regional transit plan;

Blue Ribbon Committee on the future of Wake county (December 2005- July 2006)

Wake BOC established the committee which included 65 business and community leaders with the charge to examine the capital needs of meeting projected growth over the next 25 years and recommending funding strategies. The recommendations made included the call for 1/2 sales tax to fund transportation needs.

Regional Vision Transit Plan, by the Special Transit Advisory Commission (STAC) (May 2008)

Regional review by the regions Metropolitan Planning organizations (MPOs) called for the creation of a regional transit system to help meet the needs of a growing community.

Wake County Growth Issues Task Force (June 2008- May 2009) concluded that INCREASED MASS TRANSIT OPPORTUNITIES offers the best hope of addressing and solving our long term transportation needs within Wake County, and recommended support for the 1/2 cent sales tax as means of funding this required improvements.

Capital Area Bus Transit Development Plan (September 2010 – October 2011)

This report identified that implementation of the transit plan would create over 17,000 jobs to the triangle economy and reduce congestion as the area grows.

21st Century Transportation Committee (November 2007 – December 2008)

This committee was established by the leaders of the North Carolina General Assembly and tasked with ways to improve transportation and alternative funding methods, and concluded we are 2nd of 50 states in roads, but 49th in revenue per mile. 57% of all urban interstate miles are congested, and recommended the state allow a local option sales tax to help address transportation needs.

House Bill 148 Becomes Law August 27 2009

This bill allows Wake county voters to approve via referendum and ½ cent sales tax to support transit. The bill received strong bipartisan support from members of both parties.

Whereas the Wake board of commissioners has instructed county staff to spend taxpayer dollars to prepare a Wake Transit plan, and has identified this as a important goal for the Board of Commissioners and the County for many years, and

Whereas Wake County manager David Cooke has worked with the counties partners including participation for all 12 municipalities in the county and our regional partners in Transportation to develop a plan, which he feels is complete and thorough, with detailed financial projections for both revenue and expenditures for the next 20 years, and

Whereas the Chair has communicated that Transit is a important issue for the board in his State of the county report issued to all Wake citizens in November 2011, and

Whereas former Chair Joe Byran told Wake citizens in November 2008 State of the county report, "Our goals can only be reached through a vehicle of a plan, in which we must fervently believe, and upon which we must vigorously act. There is no other route to success. He stated, As we look to the challenges facing us in coming years, at the top of the list is surely the issue of transportation and transit!, and

Whereas former BOC chair Tony Gurley told Wake county citizens in his State of the County Report given in November of 2010, "As we look to our future, and at the challenges facing us as a growing community, at the top of the list is surely the issue of transportation and transit, and

Whereas the Wake BOC adopted goals have confirmed this need for a transit plan in its annual goals for many years, i.e.

2012 Work with Triangle Transit, the municipalities and the business community on a Transit Plan which may include bus and rail and determine support of the municipalities and the business community for a ½ cent sales tax referendum that will be supported by the citizens and voters of Wake County.

2011 Work with Triangle Transit, the municipalities and the business community on a Transit Plan which may include bus and rail and determine support of the municipalities and the business community for a ½ cent sales tax referendum that will be supported by the citizens and voters of Wake County, and anticipated no sooner than the Spring of 2012.

2010

Work with Triangle Transit to develop a Transit plan that is financially sound and will be supported by Interlocal Agreements with each municipality.

Work with Triangle Transit, the municipalities, and the business community to consider a ½ cent sales tax referendum schedule no sooner than the fall of 2011.

Transportation Strategies: Work with stakeholders, including the Wake County delegation, regional transportation organizations, municipalities and the business community to advance the County's transportation needs. and

Whereas In November 2011 the county manager presented the board of commissioners the Wake County Transit plan for consideration by the board and,

Whereas the board has taken no action, held no public hearings offered no comments or suggestions, made no revisions and never deliberated on its merits of lack therein

Be it Resolved that the Wake County Board of Commissioners accept its duty to meet and hear from the public and deliberate on the Wake County transit plan, by doing the following

Conduct a public hearing at our next meeting July 2, 2012 to hear from citizens of Wake county on their thoughts, both pro and con for this plan,

That the board hold whatever work sessions it needs in June and July to fully study the plan, understand it completely and then after doing so either adopt the plan or modify it to a plan the board can adopt, and

Then after adopting such plan put it to the voters of Wake County by calling for a referendum no later than July 24, 2012, allowing the voters to decide if they support the ½ cent sales tax increase required to support the transit plan.